GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
LOK SABHA

STARRED QUESTION NO:42
ANSWERED ON:21.11.2001
HARASSMENT OF DIPLOMATIC PERSONNEL AND THEIR FAMILIES
SULTAN SALAHUDDIN OWAISI

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether incidents of harassment of diplomatic personnel and their family members and other Indians in Western Countries and America have increased after terrorists` attacks in America;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government have taken up the matter with these countries;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the steps being taken to prevent the recurrence of such incidents?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI JASWANT SINGH)

(a) & (b) No incidents of harassment of our diplomatic personnel and their family members in any western countries or in the Americas have come to our notice after terrorist attacks in America. However, in the aftermath of 11th September, 01 terrorist attacks, members of the Indian American community in the United States, did temporarily become targets of racial prejudice arising principally from mistaken identity. Some incidents were reported in U.K., Canada and Australia as well.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) & (e)The Prime Minister expressed India`s grave concern to the USPresident regarding the safety of Indians and received the US President`s full assurance in this regard.

In U.K., Canada and Australia, our Missions took up the matter with the Foreign Offices and local authorities.

As a result of the efforts of the Government, instructions were immediately issued by the concerned Governments to their law enforcement authorities to provide greater security to the Indian community. The Police not only intervened immediately by arresting the culprits but also stepped up security.